



Thy Kingdom Come: Developing Confidence in Jesus

Text: Mark Chapters 4-8,
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There are two different ways of doing power - the world's way and God's way. Both are very different. Jesus explains in Mark 4 that God's rule will come in the form of a seed, His word, sown into our hearts.

In Mark 4, Jesus taught from morning until evening. All day he taught and his disciples were all there listening. In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples have the opportunity to practice their faith in a storm. Jesus is teaching how to hold on to his word. They're terrified and the first question they ask reveals why they were afraid. They said, "Who is this?" In other words, "We don't understand Him." Not understanding Jesus led to their lack of faith. Not understanding Jesus caused them to take His word lightly so it didn't enter their hearts.

We all need to grow in our knowledge of Jesus. That's Mark's main point going forward. In fact, Mark 4:41 it says, "Who is this?" In Mark 8:29, Jesus asks "Who do you say I am?" This proves that Mark is rounding out chapters 5-8 with how not knowing Jesus will cause problems in trusting Him.

In chapters 5-8 Jesus does a series of miracles, then asks the disciples in Mark 8:29, "Who do you say I am?"

Mark 6:45-52 - In spite of all the miracles, the disciples still didn't understand that Jesus has authority over everything. Their lack of understanding is called hardness of heart. Jesus is not being critical. It's just another way of saying that we must always come to better understand who Jesus is so that we can trust Him in every area of our lives.

Mark is inviting us to ask the question for ourselves. We need to continually grow in our understanding of Jesus so that we can receive the promises He makes to us. In other words, most times, our limited understanding that Jesus is the Lord over everything causes us to doubt and trust Him.

After all these miracles are disciples are beginning to see who Jesus is. Mark 8:27-29 - When they call Him the Messiah they are saying, "You're clearly in charge." What they had to learn is that whatever He says comes to pass. Believing in Him is to trust that whatever He says is so. If He says it then it's so regardless of what it looks like. Regardless of what we can see or hear or feel.

